



North Caldwell Community News

2nd Quarter 2023

As we reach half way point of 2023, we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the happenings taking place within North Caldwell, along with other helpful information.

Waste Collection: The Borough's current contract for Solid Waste Collection expires on July 31, 2023. In anticipation of the contract ending, the Borough advertised bids for a new contract. After a great deal of consideration, a contract was awarded for curbside collection of household waste. Residents will have an opportunity to contract directly with the solid waste hauler for a monthly fee if they desire to retain rear yard collection for their property. More details will follow in a Borough-wide mailing.

Finance: Over the past four months, our Finance Committee and Borough employees have been hard at work to present a budget to the community with **zero** impact to the tax base. We are proud to say this goal has been accomplished. We have introduced and adopted our operating budget with **no** increases at the Borough level. In addition, the capital budget has been introduced with zero impact on your local property taxes.

North Caldwell Public Schools Bond Referendum: There will be a special election on Tuesday, September 26th for the voters of North Caldwell to decide upon a bond referendum for Grandview and Gould schools. Please see the following link for further information: <https://sites.google.com/ncboe.org/ncboe-referendum/home>.

Cellular Coverage: The Technology Committee, in consultation with Borough professionals, has been pursuing a solution for cellular dead zones in the Borough for several years. Many ideas proved to be nonviable options, but two Borough-owned parcels remained potential solutions for cellular coverage. These efforts culminated in land lease bids for portions of both Borough-owned properties – Mountain Avenue Field lower parking lot and the Skyline Drive Water Tank property. In April, the Borough awarded lease agreements with T-Mobile for the construction of new cellular towers in both locations. After construction, these towers will be owned by the Borough and will improve cellular reliability and safety throughout the Borough. The towers will be made available for lease to other cellular providers once it is completed.

Public Safety: Did you know...in 2022, the North Caldwell Police answered or created call logs for 8,914 incidents. That's over 24 calls for service or reports generated each day of the year. Please-- if you see something suspicious, call the police department immediately. The North Caldwell Police Department is looking out for your safety. Here are some areas you can help with continuing to make North Caldwell a safe place to live:

- **Stopping Auto Thefts:** Did you know...Auto thefts are a State-wide problem, due in part to key fobs being left by owners in their cars at their homes? The North Caldwell Police are now fighting back with state-of-the art technology that identifies the would-be car thieves as they enter North Caldwell. Please use caution by locking your vehicle doors and removing the key fobs when your car is unattended.

- **Home Security Alarms and Camera Systems:** Please ensure that you activate your home alarm system when you deem necessary to ensure the safety of everyone in the residence. External camera system technology has advanced over the years to include artificial intelligence driven notifications. We would encourage those with these systems ensure that their notification are activated to immediately notify them of a possible issue at the home and in turn notifying the police department. Systems with motion only alerts are often found disabled or camera systems not working at all.
- **Traffic Safety:** Please ensure that you stop at all stop signs in the Borough. There have been an increase number of complaints received regarding this violation specifically at the Elm Road by White Rock, the Central Ave Triangle, and Evergreen Drive and Green Place. Please obey the posted speed limits in town. There are solar powered monitoring devices on Mountain Ave, Gould Ave and soon to be on Park Ave to assist in reducing the speed of vehicles. Please also obey the town ordinances related to motor vehicles. New ordinances were introduced for the Squire Hill and Sunset area because of the commuter traffic directly relating to the West Essex Regional School.
- **Phone Scams:** An increasing trend over the past year, these scams range anywhere from PSE&G, Social Security, fake police fundraisers or even people saying they have a family member held hostage and require money to set them free. If you receive a call which seems suspicious, never provide any personal information or send any type of payment. Contact the police department to help you determine if the call is a scam.

Speed Humps: If you have driven on Smull Avenue recently, you will have seen the speed humps which have been installed. This was part of a pilot program that the Borough developed to combat speeding in our community. We are evaluating other areas of the Borough to expand this program. Please obey the posted speeds limits to keep our town safe!

PSE&G Streetlight Outages: If you notice that a street light is out in your neighborhood, please report the outage by clicking on the map at: <https://psegnj.streetlightoutages.com/public/default.html>

Traffic Light: The Borough, North Caldwell Board of Education and County of Essex are jointly undertaking a traffic signal project to improve the safety within the intersection of Gould Avenue and Mountain Avenue. The Borough will only be responsible for 25% of the project costs and the benefits will be invaluable. The County has completed its design of the traffic signal and currently awaits approval by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). The schedule for public bids and construction will be determined after NJDOT approval is received.

Shared Services: The Borough is proud to announce the expansion of our Shared Court. The newly expanded Shared Courts of Essex Fells, North Caldwell and Verona officially launched on June 1st and became the first 3-way shared court in Essex County. The addition of Verona to the Shared Courts has allowed the Borough to increase revenue to the Borough and decrease the Borough's share of the operating expenses while improving the already-great quality of service. Despite our small size, the Borough is proud to be a leader in shared services. We are already in discussion with more neighbors about expanding our shared services as a result of a growing positive reputation.

Water Meter Replacement Program: The Borough will soon begin a water replacement project requiring all water meters to be replaced. The new meters will ensure accurate and equitable water billing for all residents. Upcoming mailers from the Borough will provide more information.

Road Construction: Road paving projects on Park Avenue, Byron Road, Glenview Road, Tanglewood, and Longview Avenue are now completed. In addition, the PSE&G gas line replacement project on Mountain Avenue is now complete. We anticipate the area impacted by the gas line replacement will be repaved by PSE&G in early August. Additionally, the Borough will be undertaking our own municipal paving program this summer. The following roads will receive additional paving this summer: Norwood Terrace, Soder Road, Birch Avenue, Pine Place, Squire Hill Road, Longview Avenue, Maywood Court, Eton Drive and Byron Road.

Green Brook County Club: A subset of the Borough Council has had continued meetings with the owners of the Green Brook Country Club property. We continue to review a revised proposal that they submitted to the Borough and will continue to work towards a solution that minimizes any impact to our Borough. As discussions evolve, we will be sure to communicate all updates with the public as soon as possible.

Walker's Park: On May 1st, the Borough resubmitted the permit for the revised plan for a walking path at the Park to the NJDEP. The NJDEP will have 90 days to review the permit application and respond. Once the permits are received, this project will need to be publicly bid. We are hopeful to approve a contract this fall which will allow construction schedules to be coordinated with the contractor. Once construction begins, which could vary because of restrictions from the NJDEP, it is anticipated the project would take 90 days to complete.

Fireman's Field Renovation: The synthetic field surface at Firemen's Field has been completed. A "soft" field opening ceremony was held on a April 2, 2023 as the first game was played on the new field. During this year's Opening Day event, an official ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the installation of the renovated field. The first pitch was thrown out by Mayor Raymond and seven veterans of our community. Despite the overcast skies, it was a great day to see so many children enjoying the new field. A special thank you to the Cordovano family and the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation for your assistance in making this happen!

Senior Meetings: This club was formed in an effort to keep those who have reached the age of 62 active and to meet others of their own age. Any resident of North Caldwell who has reached this age is invited to join. The meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of every month at Fireman's Hall. In addition, with the town pool now open, every Wednesday is "Free Senior Swim Day" for all North Caldwell residents over the age of 62. Guests are welcome, but there is a cost of \$15 for each guest.

REMINDERS:

Tree Removal Ordinance: Before removing any trees from your property, please note that a tree removal permit is required. Please call the Building Department, 973-228-6410 ext. 106 for more information.

Online Payments: As a reminder, you can pay your property tax, sewer and water bills online through the Borough website <https://www.northcaldwell.org/home/pages/online-payment>.

Emergency Alert Notifications: We encourage all residents to register with the North Caldwell Emergency Alert Notification system. You will receive information such as road closure or water main breaks, as well as other public safety announcements. You can register for these notifications at <https://www.northcaldwell.org/home/news/sign-north-caldwells-emergencynotifications>.

Civic Rec: For any resident looking to participate in North Caldwell sponsored programs, please ensure you and your family are registered through the Civic Rec Registration site: <https://secure.rec1.com/NJ/north-caldwell-nj/catalog>.

Drainage Reporting Form: If you are experiencing an issue with water drainage, we want to know about it. You can submit your concern to the Borough at <https://form.jotform.com/221602966403048>.

Camp Wyanokie: The camp opens on April 1st of each year and is open through the last weekend in November. For those wishing to enjoy overnight camping, you can reserve a camp site at <https://www.campspot.com/book/campwyanokie>. This beautiful 150 acre preserve at the edge of Norvin Green State Forest in West Milford surrounds a 5-acre scenic lake. There is a pavilion with picnic tables and various campsites with lean-tos and cooking fireplaces. Family Day at the camp was held Saturday June 17th. We had over 175 people from the local communities attend.

The North Caldwell Recreation Foundation (NCRF): If you would like to get involved and volunteer some of your time, the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation is looking for volunteers. If interested in learning more, please contact the NCRF at northcaldwell.recfoundation@aol.com.

West Essex First Aid Squad (WEFAS): The West Essex First Aid Squad 2023 Fund Drive is underway. Please review their fund drive letter to learn more about how WEFAS is funded and consider making a donation to help fund their parking lot and building projects for 2023. They are also expecting an ambulance remount which will cost approximately \$180,000. If interested in learning more or to donate, please visit the WEFAS website: <https://westessexfas.org/>.

Upcoming Events & Dates:

- Summer Fun Camp – Monday, June 26th through Friday, July 28th
- North Caldwell Recreation Foundation 5K/1 Mile Color Run – Saturday, September 9th
- Town Picnic – 1:00pm on Saturday, September 9th at the Town Pool

Upcoming Mayor & Council Meetings: All meetings begin at 6:30p.m.

- Tuesday, July 18th – Combined Conference and Regular Meetings
- Tuesday, August 15th – Combined Conference and Regular Meetings
- Tuesday, September 12th – Conference Meeting
- Wednesday, September 27th – Regular Meeting

Additional meeting dates are posted at <https://www.northcaldwell.org/mayor-council>. Meeting agendas are posted at least 48 hours before each meeting at <https://www.northcaldwell.org/mayor-council>.

On behalf of the Mayor, Council, and Borough employees, we wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer season.

Mayor Joshua H. Raymond and the North Caldwell Borough Council

Council President Anthony Floria-Callori
Councilman Matthew Atlas
Councilman Robert Kessler
Councilman Arthur Rees
Councilman Kenneth Tilton
Councilman Stephen Weinstein